

Is One Religion As Good As Another?

Have you ever heard someone say, "it does not matter what you believe, or what you call yourself, for one religion is just as good as another?" Unfortunately, you have probably heard this statement made before, but if one religion is as good as another, then why...

1) Did Christ take away one?

Before Christianity, there was Judaism, and the Jews were under the law of Moses. However, the law was unprofitable, as the Hebrew writer confirmed when he penned, *"For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God"* (Hebrews 7:18-19). You see, Christ nailed the old law to the cross (Colossians 2:14) and because of that, the old law, Judaism, was annulled. So, if one religion is as good as another, then why did Christ take away one?

2) Did thousands give up one?

On the day of Pentecost, when Peter preached Jesus Christ to the Jews, they were cut to the heart (Acts 2:37) and asked the all-important question of what shall we do? Peter then responded to them, *"Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 2:38). We then go on to read in Acts 2:41 that about three thousand souls gladly received Peter's word and were baptized and were then added by the Lord to the church (Acts 2:47). Now, if one religion is as good as another, then why did thousands of Jews give up Judaism and convert to Christianity on the day of Pentecost?

3) Did Paul change religions?

In Galatians 1:13, Paul wrote, *"For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it."* Here Paul writes about his former conduct in Judaism, which was his former religion. However, Paul later writes, *"Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which*

accords with godliness..." (Titus 1:1). Folks, we can clearly see from these passages that Paul was once a part of Judaism, but then changed to Christianity and became an apostle of Jesus Christ. So, why would Paul change religions if one religion was as good as another?


4) Do false teachers exist?

Peter said false teachers existed and would continue to exist when he revealed, *"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed"* (2 Peter 2:1-2). Friends, there is only one gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:6-8); therefore, if one perverts or teaches anything contrary to the gospel of Christ, they are a false teacher. So, the question is, if one religion is as good as another, then why are many teaching different doctrines and perverting the truth?

5) Do the Scriptures emphasize one?

And last, but certainly not least, if one religion is as good as another, then why do the Scriptures emphasize only one? In Ephesians 4:4-6, Paul affirms, *"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all, and in you all."* Now, notice that Paul said there is one faith; not multiple faiths, but one faith. Therefore, one religion and/or belief is not as good as another. In John 17:21, Jesus prayed for all believers to be one—not to be divided and be many different religions, but for all who believe in Him to be unified as one. So, if one religion is as good as another, then why do the Scriptures put emphasis on just one?

Folks, the truth is, one religion is not as good as another. Why? Because, there is one body (Ephesians 4:4), the one body is the church (Ephesians 1:22-23), and Christ is the Savior of the body (Ephesians 5:23). Therefore, one must be a part of the one body or church in order to be saved, and in Romans 16:16, the inspired apostle Paul refers to saints in local groups as the churches of Christ.

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